

NEWSLETTER

With the compliments of the Parochial Church Council of St. Denys' Church
Village Website – www.ravensthorpe.me.uk

ST. DENYS PCC's RESPONSE following the QUESTIONNAIRE which was attached to the February Newsletter

The PCC would like to thank all those who took the time to respond to the questionnaire, and especially to those who wrote some really thoughtful letters of encouragement and suggestions.

It seems more people would consider coming into the Church if we could offer more occasions such as concerts, family friendly events, talks, exhibitions etc, both linked with the worship of the church and also as more general community events. Many thought that the provision of toilet and a kitchenette would really help with this (and we agree, but accept that doing this in a protected historic building would be costly and complex). However, based on what you told us, we have started with some small changes towards making the church building and services more welcoming to all. So far these include:

- Making welcome packs available to all new arrivals coming to the Church.
- Improving facilities for families and children in the Church by setting up a new play area with new books, colouring kit, and a carpeted area for youngsters to play on, and also by giving all children welcome bags as they arrive at Church, to keep them (and parents!) happy and occupied during the service.
- Ordering a new sign and notice board so we can keep the village informed on what is going on, and when the services are each week.
- Updating our Family/All-age services (which normally happen on the 4th Sunday of each month) to use a new, more accessible service format and words, and to vary them more, to make them more relevant to all in the village, and to the time of year. For example this could include a talk on a subject of interest to the village or the wider society. The first such service was held in May for **Christian Aid Week** with a presentation of the work done by this charity in Jinotega, Nicaragua and the benefits to the people there. Thanks to all who came, and who made donations during the week.

This is obviously just a small start, but we would love you to come along and see what we have done so far, and we continue to be keen to hear any suggestions and ideas you might have.

FAMILY FUN DAY in aid of THE CYSTIC FIBROSIS TRUST – Saturday 18th June

From 1pm to 4pm at the Pavillion, Ravensthorpe Memorial Playing Fields.

Bouncy Castle, inflatable tunnels, giant Cadbury's hamper raffle, tea & cakes, second hand toy and book sale, Wii Challenge, kids' obstacle course, Phoenix cards, games and more.....

THE RAVENSTHORPE MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELDS are delighted to announce that this summer they will be running a series of **Sporting Friday Freebies** on the Playing Fields! Everyone is welcome to join us for free sporting fun **starting on Friday 1st July at 6.30pm with Rounders**. All ages welcome, small kids and big kids alike! Dates later in the year will include **Friday 12th August**.

CHURCH FETE – Sunday 7th August. The plans for the fete are going ahead well and, once again it promises to be a great afternoon. More top quality Bric-a-Brac and good second hand furniture is still required for delivery to Torch Hill Farm. (For collection phone Colin Mold on 770667.) Books are wanted for the bookstall. These can be delivered to David Johnstone at 1 Coton Road. There is also space for more stalls if anyone is interested in displaying and selling their wares. A space costs just £10 – again contact Colin.

BREAKTHROUGH BREAST CANCER – Ian MacDonald has now raised £3,500 for this charity with his Macca's Best Dressed Breast Bash followed by completing the London Marathon in 4hrs and 14mins. He would have been quicker but he stopped to help another runner in difficulty, losing time and rhythm. A marvellous effort!

COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH – by Brenda Ball, Speedwatch coordinator, Ravensthorpe PC.

It was with great disappointment that Ravensthorpe Parish Council was informed of the discontinuation of the Casualty Reduction Partnership this April.

Whilst the Parish Council understands the difficulties created by the current levels in local government spending we do consider that an important tool in the campaign to create safer roads has been lost to the community. It is evident to all concerned that this hugely successful project has helped to reduce the speed of vehicles through this village. Success in this project was not measured by the issue of warning letters from the police but rather by a reduction in speed of the passing vehicles.

Together with other measures, such as electronic speed warning signs, the Speedwatch scheme has been instrumental in raising public awareness of speeding on rural roads. This scheme has been a glowing example of a community working together with external agencies to improve life in our village. We sincerely thank all those residents of the village who gave up their time to administer the scheme and all those who voiced their support for the scheme. In particular, we thank P.C. John McQuaid and his team for all their hard work and support.

We would hope in the light of a future improvement of the county's financial situation that some consideration could be given to resurrecting the scheme.

DAVENTRY POLICE STATION – OPEN DAY Saturday 4th June from 11am to 4pm.

This is your chance to see areas of an operational Police Station that are not ordinarily open to the public, as well as speak to local officers and seek crime prevention advice plus learn about the interesting aspects of an officer's role.

The activities planned include: - a look at custody blocks, demonstrations of CCTV and head cams, Breathalysers, Smart Water, Mobile Police Station, Victim support display, Register for Community Messaging, chance to join the Special Constabulary, crime prevention display and quiz, the Keep Safe initiative and Neighbourhood Watch advice. ...and specifically for children: - free face painting, create a poster competition, chance to sit on various traffic vehicles, quizzes, balloons, colouring books, crayons and much more!

LEO HIGHTON –This is the continuing account of Leo's experiences during the Second World War as recounted to the editor before his death on 10th April 2011, aged 93 and based on his contemporary notes.

Part 2 - EL ALAMEIN TO SOUSSE (TUNIS). *The battle of Alamein began on 23rd October 1942.* “ Luck was with us there, but good training at home under Col. Norris must have played its part in the extraordinary low casualties we suffered; most unfortunately one of those was our own Col. Tomlinson. A desert race to Gala and on to Matruh looked promising but, *after reaching Matruh,* we were called back to Cowley Camp near Cairo – only to be told it was all a mistake, and off we set again, under our new CO, Col. Welsh, to the wastes of Timimi to rejoin 1st Armoured Div.

Big forces could not be employed against the retreating Germans, so 10th Corps. was not called in and we spent from December to March training and showing off our technical skills in such frolics as air burst ranging. (*During this period in December 1942 Leo's son, Terry was born. He was not to see him, or his wife until January 1946.*) The time dragged on a bit (apart from the “ Benghazi – Tobruk Haulage Co.”, who did good work getting supplies to the front while the harbours were being repaired) but we had time to digest the lessons of Alamein and consolidate our training.

A long and interesting march saw us up to the Mareth Line,(where Col. Benson joined us) and in time for the breakthrough there and pursuit to, and past Wadi Akarit - many interesting actions, including our chance to join a “Jock Column” with the 4th Armoured Brigade. We were with them from there until the long struggle at Enfidaville.

Perhaps we were a bit disappointed not to go through and round with the 1st Armoured Div. to take part in the breakthrough and end of the Tunisian campaign, but we can claim that we were in action to the very end and probably did the final shoot on the African continent.” TO BE CONTINUED.

W.I. MONTHLY MEETING – Thursday 16th June - 8pm at Ann Fowler's house, Home Farm. “Milestones”

CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 5th June 8.30am Holy Communion
Sunday 12th June 10.00am **Group Service at Thornby**
Sunday 19th June 9.45am Holy Communion
Sunday 26th June 11.00am All Age Service with refreshments
Sunday 3rd July 8.30am Holy Communion

Interim Minister:- The Revd. Mark Battison – phone 846690

ALTAR FLOWERS & BRASS ROTA

Lin Hudson
Lin Hudson
Pat Foss
Pat Foss
Yvonne Childs

*Contributions for the July/August Newsletter should be sent by 23rd June to the editor, John Mott
At 16 Church Gardens or telephone 770618 – email: jmd.mott@yahoo.co.uk*

